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In listing the several advancements made in wildlife preservation in 1966, Secretary Udall counted as the most heartening the passage by Congress of the Endangered Species Act and the growing concern by the general public and by all levels of government for threatened wildlife.

"Private citizens, conservation groups, universities, and local and state governments were in the front line throughout the year in the fight against encroachment on valuable living space for wildlife," Secretary Udall said.

He added that several professional groups, including the American Fisheries Society, Wildlife Society, International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, and the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums have established committees to study endangered species and recommend appropriate actions. The U. S. National Committee of the International Biological Program also has a section concerned with this problem.

The new Endangered Species Preservation Act authorized the use of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and certain other Federal funds to acquire land needed to safeguard rare and endangered species of wildlife. The Department's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will have a leadership role in the national preservation program.

Bureau Director John S. Gottschalk has established an Endangered Species Office. Much of the Research on endangered species will be concentrated at the Bureau's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel, Maryland.

Following are the 1966 developments outlined by Secretary Udall:

...A biologist is rounding out a study on four major islands in Hawaii from which will come recommendations for preserving the Koloa (Hawaiian duck), Hawaiian gallinule, Hawaiian coot, and Hawaiian stilt.

...The California condor is being studied on its present range northwest of Los Angeles. A Federal biologist reports that 51 condors, 13 of them young birds, have been counted.

...A rare weasel-like animal, the black-footed ferret, is being studied on the northern plains.

...A study of the ecology and distribution of endangered southeastern species has started. Primary emphasis is on the Florida everglade kite. Thus far 22 kites have been counted, all near Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, northwest of Miami.

...Increased attention is being devoted to protecting endangered species on the 750 million acres of public lands under jurisdiction of various Federal agencies and on the 50 million acres of Indian lands.

...The Colorado Cooperative Fishery Unit has moved 40 adult greenback cutthroat trout in an attempt to extend the range of this rare fish, and field biologists recently transferred 100 Apache trout from Deep Creek in Arizona to a lake built by the White Mountain Apaches specifically for preservation of this native fish.

...Watering tanks were established in strategic locations last summer on the San Andres National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico and on the Kofa and Cabeza Prieta Game Ranges in Arizona to provide better distribution of desert bighorn sheep.

...A captive flock of rare New Mexican ducks was established on Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in New Mexico. These birds have produced 30 young which will be released on the refuge next spring. The Bureau and the Arizona and New Mexico wildlife departments helped Interior's Bureau of Land Management with a New Mexican duck-restoration project on BLM's San Simon Cienaga area along the Arizona-New Mexico border.

...The Texas red wolf now is protected on the Anahuac, Aransas, and Brazoria National Wildlife Refuges in Texas. Detailed classification for this species was completed in eastern Texas and will be expanded throughout its range.

...Two 97-acre mammal-proof exclosures were constructed on Aransas Refuge to provide safe winter feeding areas for whooping cranes. All eagle nests and roosting sites on national wildlife refuges have been located and marked. No tree cutting or other refuge use by man will be permitted within one-half mile. Surveillance is provided along migration routes and at wintering concentration points.

...The National Park Service is cooperating in research on the black-footed ferret, grizzly bear, sea turtles, desert pupfish, desert bighorn sheep, nene goose, and wolf. Its programs include restoration of suitable habitat, reintroduction of endangered species in key areas to form nuclei breeding populations, and control or removal of exotic animals which conflict with endangered species.

...The Forest Service is stressing protection and management of endangered species in National Forests. Habitat management there includes completion of two herd-unit plans for California bighorn sheep and a habitat plan for Tule elk, a special policy on grizzly bear habitat management in Montana and northern Idaho, measures to identify red wolves in Arkansas, habitat considerations for the Little Colorado spinedace, Gila trout, and Piute cutthroat trout, and continuation of programs for the Kirtland's warbler in Michigan.

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